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WORK OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (1989) AND WORK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-FOURTH SESSION (1989)

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INTRODUCTION

By its resolution 1654 (XVI) adopted on 27 November 1961, the General Assembly established the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, consisting of 17 members, and requested the Committee to examine the application of the Declaration, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration. At each subsequent session, the Assembly, after considering the report submitted to it by the Special Committee, adopted a resolution extending the Committee's mandate in relation to the remaining Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Contained in the present issue of the Decolonization bulletin is an account of the work during 1989 of the Special Committee (see sect. I) and the related work of the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session on decolonization issues (see section II).

I. WORK OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE IN 1989

A. General

By renewing the mandate of the Special Committee in 1988, the General Assembly entrusted the Committee with a dual task to be carried out during the latter's 1989 session:

(a) To continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) in all Territories that had not yet attained independence, to formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism and to report thereon to the Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

(b) To prepare and submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, preparatory to the commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration in 1990 and in order to enhance further the process of decolonization, recommendations on appropriate programmes of activities to be undertaken by the United Nations, Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the course of the commemorative year.

Set out below is an account of the activities of the Special Committee during 1989 in the discharge of the above-mentioned mandate.

In 1989, the membership of the Special Committee consisted of: Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Mali, Norway, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

B. Organization of work

At its organizational meeting on 9 February 1989, the Special Committee decided to maintain its three subsidiary bodies: the Working Group, the Sub-Committee on Petitions, Information and Assistance and the Sub-Committee on Small Territories. The membership of the subsidiary bodies was as follows:

Working Group: the officers of the Special Committee and the sub-committees and Congo, Fiji and Iran (Islamic Republic of);

Sub-Committee on Petitions, Information and Assistance: Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Congo, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Mali, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and United Republic of Tanzania;

Sub-Committee on Small Territories: Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Mali, Norway, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

The following members were elected as officers of the Special Committee: Messrs. Tesfaye Tadesse, Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations, Chairman; Oscar Oramas-Oliva, Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations, Sverre J. Bergh Johansen (Norway) and Lubomir Dolejs (Czechoslovakia), Vice-Chairmen; and Mohammad Najdat Shaheed (Syrian Arab Republic), Rapporteur.

Mr. Dolejs was elected Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Petitions, Information and Assistance. Mr. Mohamed Salah Tekaya (Tunisia) was elected Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Small Territories, and Mr. Dag Mjaaland (Norway), Rapporteur.

The Special Committee also decided to allocate for consideration at its plenary meetings the questions of Namibia (see sect. C), East Timor, Gibraltar, New Caledonia, Western Sahara and the Falkland Islands (Malvinas); and that the Sub-Committee on Small Territories should consider the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands.

In their consideration of the above Territories, the Special Committee and its Sub-Committee on Small Territories took into account the related working papers prepared by the Secretariat, as well as several reports of the Chairman and of the Secretary-General. 1/

Participation of administering Powers

In their capacity as the administering Powers concerned and in accordance with established procedures, the delegations of New Zealand (administering Power of Tokelau), Portugal (administering Power of East Timor) and the United States of America (administering Power of American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands and Guam) continued to participate in the work of the Special Committee. The United States delegation did not take part in the Committee's consideration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, as it considered that the matter fell within the purview of the Trusteeship Council and the Security Council, not the General Assembly. The delegation of France, the administering Power concerned, did not participate in the Committee's consideration of New Caledonia.

The delegation of the United Kingdom did not participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the Territories under its administration. In its reports on the Territories under United Kingdom administration, the Sub-Committee on Small Territories expressed its regret that the administering Power did not participate in its meetings and mentioned the negative impact on its work. The Sub-Committee reiterated its appeal to the administering Power to reconsider its decision and to resume its participation in the work of the Special Committee.

In a related context, on 9 August 1989 the Special Committee adopted a resolution on the question of sending visiting missions to those Territories, in which, in expressing "its regret at the decision of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland not to take part in the related work of the Special Committee", the Committee urged that Government to reconsider its decision to permit the access of visiting missions to the Territories under its administration. 2/

In fulfilment of its mandate, during its 1989 session the Special Committee considered the future of Namibia and reviewed the status of the other 18 Territories on the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable. Upon conclusion of its consideration of the items, whenever appropriate, the Committee submitted its recommendations to the General Assembly in the form of draft decisions or draft resolutions. A brief account of those recommendations is given below.

C. Question of Namibia

1. Consideration by the Special Committee

During its consideration of the question between 11 and 18 August, the Special Committee took into account the relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 431 (1978) of 27 July 1978 and 435 (1978) of 29 September 1989. It also took note of the report of the Secretary-General 3/ and of his explanatory statement 4/ for the implementation of the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia. The Committee heard statements of 14 delegations speaking in the general debate on the question (A/AC.109/PV.1350-1352).

At its 1360th meeting, on 18 August, the Special Committee, by adopting resolution A/AC.109/1014 concerning Namibia, reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of Namibia to self-determination, freedom and national independence in conformity with the objectives of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV); further reaffirmed the responsibility of all parties concerned to co-operate with the United Nations to ensure the full and effective implementation of the settlement plan in accordance with Security Council resolution 435 (1978); called upon all parties concerned to honour their commitment to the United Nations plan and to the full and faithful implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978), which would ensure free and fair elections in Namibia under the supervision and control of the United Nations; reaffirmed its support for the efforts being deployed by the Security Council and the Secretary-General in order to create and maintain the necessary conditions for a genuinely free and fair process of self-determination in Namibia; urged the Security Council to continue to follow developments in Namibia very closely in order to ensure the full implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) in its original and definitive form; urged members of the United Nations and members of specialized agencies

and other organizations associated with the United Nations to provide economic and financial assistance to the Namibian people, both during the transitional period and after independence; decided to send to Namibia a visiting mission to monitor closely the decolonization process, in particular to observe the preparations as well as the elections scheduled for November 1989; requested the visiting mission to submit to the Special Committee a report on its visit to the Territory; and requested the Secretary-General to undertake the necessary consultations and arrangements for the dispatch of that mission.

In accordance with the above decision, the Special Committee dispatched a visiting mission to monitor the decolonization process in Namibia, in particular to observe the independence elections held in November. The Mission visited the Territory from 29 October to 17 November 1989.

2. Visiting Mission of the Special Committee to observe the independence elections in Namibia

The Mission was composed of Mr. Tesfaye Tadesse, Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations and Chairman of the Special Committee, who served as Chairman of the Mission; Mr. Martin Adouki, Permanent Representative of the Congo to the United Nations; Mr. Bechir Gueblaoui, Ambassador of Tunisia; Mr. Ladislav Lengyel, Ambassador of Czechoslovakia; Mr. Gilberto Carrasquero, Ambassador of Venezuela; Mr. Mahmoud Sadat Madarshahi, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations; and Mr. Amin Rianom, Minister Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations.

The Mission was assisted by a team of United Nations Secretariat officials composed of Mr. Wilfrid De Souza, Principal Secretary; Mrs. Neuza de C. Costa, Senior Political Affairs Officer; Miss Johanna M. Fritsche and Mr. Steven Gleason, Political Affairs Officers; and Mrs. Susan Yango, Administrative Officer.

Upon arrival at Windhoek on 29 October, the Mission organized its work in such a way as to enable it: (a) to meet with the broadest possible range of representative organizations, parties and groups, as well as individuals; and (b) to ensure maximum possible coverage for its observation of the electoral process.

The Mission thus held extensive consultations in the Territory with: officials of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), including Mr. Martti Ahtisaari, Special Representative of the Secretary-General; Mr. Legwaila Joseph Legwaila, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Lt.-General Prem Chand, UNTAG Force Commander; regional representatives; representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the International Committee of the Red Cross; representatives of six of the political parties that had subscribed to the electoral Code of Conduct and had thus been placed on the ballot; and a number of other organizations, both secular and non-secular, as well as individuals.

The Mission divided itself into three groups so that it would be able to observe a wider area of the polling stations throughout the Territory. Team A, consisting of the representatives of Czechoslovakia and the Islamic Republic of Iran, visited polling stations in Ovamboland and Kaokoland; Team B, consisting of the representatives of the Congo and Tunisia, visited Okavango and East Caprivi; and Team C, consisting of the Chairman and the representatives of Indonesia and Venezuela, remained at Windhoek and covered the central and southern regions. Each team was accompanied by a Secretariat staff member. Following the elections, the Mission observed the counting of the ordinary and tendered ballots at Windhoek.

While at Windhoek, the Mission met Mr. Louis Pienaar, Administrator-General of Namibia, and Mr. Sam Nujoma, President of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO).

General observations of the Visiting Mission

Upon its return to Headquarters, the Mission presented its report 5/ to the Special Committee, which adopted it unanimously. A brief outline of the Mission's observations, as contained in its report, is given below.

It was the unanimous and immutable conclusion of the Mission that the people of Namibia had, in accordance with Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and under the supervision of the United Nations, exercised irrevocably the inalienable right to self-determination by choosing their representatives to a Constituent Assembly that was charged with drafting a constitution for an independent Namibia.

In respect of the electoral processes, the Mission observed that a general atmosphere of calm prevailed throughout Namibia in the final stages of the electoral campaign and during the period of voting. It was the considered view of the Mission that the conditions in the country were generally conducive to free and fair elections.

The registration of voters, totalling some 701,000, had been conducted in an orderly manner under the close supervision of UNTAG. Approximately 10,000 persons, normally residents in South Africa, were also made eligible to vote under the applicable legislation. UNTAG and the Office of the Administrator-General, as well as the political parties themselves, used a variety of media to inform voters about the United Nations plan and the rules governing voter-registration and voting.

The Mission was apprised of the concern repeatedly expressed by UNTAG on the activities of the South West Africa Broadcasting Corporation, which operated the sole radio and television network in Namibia and which repeatedly displayed a bias against SWAPO in its editorials. Although eventually the problem was somewhat mitigated, the Mission regretted that the problem of editorial impartiality had not been resolved prior to the elections to the satisfaction of the Special Representative.

The voting process commenced on 7 November and was completed on 11 November; polling stations were open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. During the first two days, however, many stations remained open beyond the closing hour in order to accommodate all the people waiting in line. On subsequent days, the turnout was much lighter. During the five-day voting period, no serious incidents which would have impeded the voting process occurred.

The Mission noted that the voting process proceeded in a smooth and orderly fashion and that, in general, the procedures and regulations had been followed. It was of the view that there was very little potential for fraud, abuse or intimidation of voters at polling places. The counting of votes began on 13 November and proceeded rapidly and without difficulty. The official results were announced on 14 November and were certified by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General as free and fair.

The Mission was of the view that overall the elections in Namibia were held in conformity with established United Nations standards of decolonization, that the people of Namibia freely chose representatives to determine their political future, and that the United Nations discharged its responsibilities honourably, thereby enhancing its own credibility as a peace-making organization and the guardian of freedom.

The Mission noted with satisfaction that several parties had expressed to it their commitment to accepting the results of the elections and to forming coalitions or engaging in negotiations, if necessary, to secure passage of the constitution. The Mission also considered it extremely important that all efforts should be continued to restore Walvis Bay as an integral part of a united Namibia and that, through Decree No. 1 for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia, 6/ all peoples should enjoy economic benefits derived from their natural resources, including entitlement to compensation for such benefits as had unjustly been denied them.

In respect of the socio-economic spheres, most of the political parties had expressed their commitment to adopting an approach that could speed the mobilization of resources, bring material benefits to all Namibians and help the society to advance towards greater self-reliance.

The Mission believed that the United Nations should play a leading role in the difficult task of national reconstruction and development by providing sufficient resources, directed at meeting the urgent requirements of the transition period as well as longer-term development objectives. In that regard, it welcomed and endorsed the appeal launched by the Security Council to Member States, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to extend generous financial, material and technical support to the Namibian people, both during the transitional period and during the formative stages of independence.

In conclusion, the Mission was convinced that if all parties acted with wisdom and good faith, the people of Namibia would at last be able to enjoy their national independence for which they had struggled for so many years. That step would also bring southern Africa closer to attaining peace and stability through the complete elimination of apartheid and racial oppression, thus contributing significantly to the total liberation of the African continent and to the peace and security of the world.

Adoption of the report

On 4 December 1989, the Special Committee endorsed the conclusions and observations contained in the report of the Visiting Mission and decided to incorporate that report in the report of the Committee to the General Assembly at the latter's 1989 session. 5/

D. East Timor, Gibraltar, New Caledonia, Western Sahara and the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

1. Requests for hearing

In connection with its consideration of the above-mentioned Territories, the Special Committee granted a number of requests for hearing and heard 27 petitioners: 18 concerning East Timor, 4 concerning New Caledonia, 1 concerning Western Sahara and 3 concerning the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), as follows:

Petitioner	Meeting at which petitioner was heard
Question of East Timor	
Mr. David Kilgour, M.P. Edmonton Southeast House of Commons	1352nd
Mr. Alexander George Tapol The Indonesian Human Rights Campaign	1352nd
Miss Tamako Nakanishi Parliamentarians' Forum on East Timor	1352nd
Mr. Geoffrey Robinson Amnesty International	1352nd
Miss Ann Clwyd, M.P. Parliamentarians for East Timor	1352nd
Mr. Pedro José dos Santos Pinto Leite Komitee Indonesie and Foundation X min Y and Oost-Timor Groep Nederland	1352nd
Miss Maria Luisa Franca de Oliveira International Catholic Movement of Pax Christi (Portuguese section)	1352nd
Bishop Aloisius Soma Japanese Catholic Council for Justice and Peace	1353rd
Mr. Michel Robert Association de Solidarité avec le Timor Oriental	1353rd

Petitioner	Meeting at which petitioner was heard
Mr. José Alvaro Machado Pacheco Pereira Assembleia da República Parlamento Português	1353rd
Miss Manuela Aguiar Portuguese researcher on East Timor issues	1353rd
Miss Kiyoko Furusawa Free East Timor Japan Coalition	1353rd
Mr. Paulo Pires União Democrática Timorense	1353rd
Miss Elaine Brière Canada-Asia Working Group	1353rd
Mr. José Luis Guterres Frente Revolucionaria de Timor-Leste Independente	1353rd
Miss Sidney Jones Asia Watch	1353rd
Mr. Adriano Alves Moreira Assembleia da República Parlamento Português	1353rd
Mr. Antonio José Monteiro Vidigal Amaro Assembleia da República Parlamento Português	1353rd
Question of New Caledonia	
Mr. Yann Céléné Uregei Front uni de libération kanak (FULK)	1355th
Mr. Fred Gaboury World Federation of Trade Unions	1355th
Miss Vinie Burrows Women's International Democratic Federation	1355th

Petitioner	Meeting at which petitioner was heard
Question of New Caledonia (continued)	
Mr. Rock Wamytan Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste (FLNKS)	1355th
Question of Western Sahara	
Mr. Mouloud Said Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (POLISARIO)	1352nd
Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	
Mr. L. G. Blake, Legislative Council of the Falkland Islands	1354th
Mr. Alexander Jacobs Betts	1354th
Mr. James Lewis	1354th

The views expressed by these petitioners are reproduced in the verbatim records of the Committee's meetings during which these hearings were held (A/AC.109/PV.1352-PV.1355).

2. Question of East Timor

In opposing any discussion of the question of East Timor, the representative of Indonesia stated that the process of decolonization of the Territory had been carried out in conformity with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, thus terminating the colonial status of East Timor. The representative reiterated the position that East Timor was a province of Indonesia. After hearing the statement of the representative of Indonesia and the testimony of the petitioners, the Special Committee decided to continue consideration of the matter at its 1990 session, subject to any directives which the General Assembly might give in that connection at its forty-fourth session.

3. Question of Gibraltar

After taking into account the continuing discussions between the parties concerned on Gibraltar, the Special Committee decided that it would resume consideration of the question at its 1990 session.

4. Question of New Caledonia

On the question of New Caledonia, following the statements of the petitioners, the representative of the Solomon Islands spoke on behalf of the seven members of the South Pacific Forum (Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) which are also States Members of the United Nations. He expressed his sorrow at the assassination in May of the leaders of FLNKS, Mr. Jean-Marie Tjibaou and Mr. Yeiwene Yeiwene, and the consequential tragic loss to the people of New Caledonia. He also expressed the Forum's regret at the fact that the Government of France, the administering Power, had not furnished the Committee with information on New Caledonia, under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations, and hoped that that Government would reconsider its position in the future. He noted, however, that some positive measures had been taken by the Government of France. The representative urged all parties to work towards the successful implementation of the Matignon Accords, which called for a referendum on self-determination of the Territory in 1998. In drawing attention to a draft resolution on New Caledonia submitted to the Special Committee by the delegation of Fiji, he expressed the hope that it would receive the unanimous support of all delegations.

In his introduction of the draft resolution on the item, the representative of Fiji stated that the draft resolution recognized the importance of stability and forward movement and endorsed the spirit of dialogue and co-operation adopted by the Government of France following the signing of the Accords. He believed that the draft resolution was balanced, constructive and built on progress made to date. Other members, speaking on the question, also welcomed the Matignon Accords and hoped for a consensus decision. The Committee thereafter adopted the draft resolution without a vote. 7/

By that resolution, the Special Committee, in noting the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities to promote political, economic and social development in the Territory, urged all the parties involved, in the interest

of all the people of New Caledonia, to maintain their dialogue and to refrain from acts of violence. The Committee also invited the parties to continue promoting a framework for the peaceful progress of the Territory to self-determination.

5. Question of Western Sahara

On the question of Western Sahara, members welcomed the good offices exercised by the Secretary-General in the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and of OAU. After hearing a statement by the representative of the Frente POLISARIO, the Special Committee decided to transmit all relevant documentation on Western Sahara to the General Assembly to facilitate the latter's consideration of the question. It also decided to continue its examination of the situation in the Territory at its 1990 session.

6. Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

During the debate on the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), the representative of Argentina stated that the topic was connected to the most deep-seated feelings of the people of Argentina and that his country would continue to claim the return of the Territory. His Government considered that the application of the principle of territorial integrity would make possible a just and lasting solution and that Argentina and the United Kingdom had an imperative political duty to embark on the path of reconcilation by means of dialogue. His Government was determined to normalize relations with the United Kingdom through negotiations and this would be done in a way that would preserve the sovereign rights of Argentina. The representative of Argentina stated that on 1 August 1989 the Government had lifted restrictions on imports from the United Kingdom which had been in effect since 1982. There was, he observed, now a new situation between the two countries.

The Special Committee adopted, by 20 votes to none, with 4 abstentions, a resolution on the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), 8/ by which it urged Argentina and the United Kingdom to resume negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute. It reiterated its firm support for the renewed mission of good offices undertaken by the Secretary-General in order to assist the parties in resuming negotiations.

E. American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands

The Special Committee adopted without a vote reports of the Sub-Committee on Small Territories on the situation in the above-mentioned 13 dependent Territories. The reports contained a series of recommendations relating to the political, economic and social development of the Territories and measures to be taken to enable the peoples of the Territories to achieve self-determination.

The conclusions and recommendations contained in these reports formed the basis for the recommendations that the Committee subsequently submitted to the General Assembly for action at its forty-fourth session. At that session, the Assembly adopted resolutions 44/90 to 44/99 and decisions 44/427 and 44/428 relating to these Territories.

In reviewing the Sub-Committee's findings and recommendations relating to small Territories, the Special Committee once again reaffirmed its conviction that such factors as territorial size, geographic location, size of population and limited natural resources should in no way delay the speedy exercise by the peoples of those Territories of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence in conformity with the Declaration contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). The Committee reiterated that it was the obligation of the administering Powers to create such conditions in their respective Territories as would enable their people to exercise freely and without interference their inalienable right to self-determination and independence; and, in that connection, reaffirmed the importance of fostering an awareness among their peoples of the possibilities open to them in the exercise of that right.

The Special Committee requested the administering Powers, in co-operation with the territorial Governments, to safeguard the inalienable rights of the peoples of colonial Territories to the enjoyment of their natural resources by taking effective measures to ensure their right to own and dispose of those resources and to establish and maintain control over their future development.

The Special Committee urged the administering Powers to take the necessary measures, in co-operation with the territorial Governments, to facilitate a sustained and balanced growth of their economies and to intensify their assistance in the

development of all sectors of those economies, with particular emphasis on programmes of diversification, in order to promote the economic and financial viability of those Territories.

The Special Committee called upon the administering Powers to ensure that the peoples of the Territories under their administration were not exploited for political, military and other purposes detrimental to their interests. It also urged them to take all necessary steps to preserve and promote the cultures, language and heritage of the indigenous populations of the Territories.

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of ascertaining the situation in small Territories, the Special Committee considered that the possibility of sending visiting missions to the Territories at an appropriate time should be kept under review.

In respect of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Special Committee noted with satisfaction the assurances given by the Administering Authority that it would continue to fulfil its responsibilities under the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement. 9/ The Committee invited the attention of the relevant organs of the United Nations to Article 83 of the Charter, under which the Security Council shall exercise all functions of the United Nations relating to strategic areas, including the approval of the terms of the Trusteeship Agreements and their alteration and amendment. It expressed regret that there was no co-operation between the Trusteeship Council and the Special Committee in relation to the Trust Territory, despite the readiness of the Committee to engage in such co-operation.

F. Question of sending visiting missions to Territories

The Special Committee has always attached great importance to securing adequate, first-hand information on the political, economic and social conditions prevailing in the colonial Territories, as well as on the views and aspirations of their inhabitants.

In that context, by a resolution adopted by consensus on 9 August, 2/ the Special Committee stressed the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to colonial Territories in order to facilitate the full, speedy and effective implementation of the Declaration. It called upon the administering Powers concerned to co-operate or continue to co-operate with the United Nations by permitting the access of visiting missions to the Territories under their administration.

G. Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable

In continuing its review of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable, the Special Committee considered its decision of 16 August 1988 concerning Puerto Rico. The Committee had before it the report of its Rapporteur, 10/ in which he had drawn attention to related reports 11/ and a study on Puerto Rico. 12/

The Special Committee heard the statements of representatives of a number of organizations and, by 9 votes to 2, with 11 abstentions, adopted a resolution submitted by the delegation of Cuba on the question. 13/

By the above-mentioned resolution, the Special Committee reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and the full applicability of the fundamental principles of that resolution with respect to Puerto Rico. It expressed the hope, and that of the international community, that the people of Puerto Rico might exercise without hindrance their right to self-determination and independence, with the express recognition of the people's sovereignty and full political equality, in conformity with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). The Committee requested the Rapporteur to present a report on the implementation of its resolutions concerning Puerto Rico and decided to keep the question of Puerto Rico under continuing review.

H. Activities of foreign economic and other interests which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Namibia and in all other Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa

During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it working papers prepared by the Secretariat containing information on economic conditions, with particular reference to foreign economic activities relating to Anguilla, the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and Bermuda. Upon conclusion of the general debate on the item, the Committee adopted without a vote a resolution that it recommended for adoption by the General Assembly. 14/

By the above-mentioned resolution, the Special Committee reaffirmed that the natural resources of all Territories under colonial and racist domination were the heritage of the peoples of those Territories and that the depletive exploitation of those resources by foreign economic interests constituted a direct violation of the rights of the peoples. The Committee strongly condemned the collaboration of certain Western and other countries with the racist minority régime of South Africa and called upon all States to take urgent, effective measures to terminate all collaboration with the racist régime of South Africa.

The Special Committee was especially concerned about the conditions in some of the Territories where foreign economic, financial and other activities deprived the indigenous populations of their rights over the wealth of their countries and where their inhabitants continued to suffer from the loss of land ownership as a result of the failure of the administering Powers concerned to restrict the sale of land to foreigners.

The Special Committee decided to continue to monitor closely the situation in the remaining colonial Territories so as to ensure that all economic activities in those Territories were aimed at strengthening and diversifying their economies in the interest of the indigenous peoples. In that connection, it requested the administering Powers concerned to ensure that the peoples of the Territories under their administration were not exploited for political, military and other purposes detrimental to their
interests.

I. Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

By adopting a consensus decision on this question, 15/ the Special Committee reiterated its condemnation of all military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration that were detrimental to the rights and interests of the colonial peoples concerned, especially their right to self-determination and independence. The Committee also reiterated its call upon the colonial Powers concerned to terminate immediately and unconditionally such activities and to eliminate such military bases.

The Special Committee reaffirmed the legitimacy of the struggle of the people of Namibia to achieve their freedom and independence, and appealed to all States to render sustained assistance in all fields in support of the faithful implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978).

J. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

As in previous years, in its consideration of the item relating to the specialized agencies, the Special Committee took into account the report of the Secretary-General containing information on action taken by the organizations of the United Nations system; 16/ the report of the Chairman on his consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council; 17/ and the report of its Sub-Committee on Petitions, Information and Assistance, 18/ containing an account of the consultations held by the Sub-Committee with the representatives of a number of specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system. In the course of its work, the Committee received the continued co-operation, and benefited from the active participation, of the representatives of OAU and national liberation movements.

The Special Committee adopted a resolution on the item. Welcoming the emplacement on 1 April 1989 of the UNTAG in Namibia and encouraged by the beginning of the independence process under the terms of Security Council resolution 435 (1978), the Committee requested all specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to render concrete assistance to the people of Namibia, in particular during the period of transition to and immediately after independence; reiterated its recommendation that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system should initiate or broaden contacts and co-operation with the colonial peoples and the administering Powers concerned, directly or, where appropriate, through regional organizations, in order to intensify assistance programmes; and urged the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to submit to their governing and legislative organs concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant United Nations decisions, particularly specific programmes of assistance to the peoples of the colonial Territories and their national liberation movements. 19/

Once again, the Committee urged the executive heads of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to draw the attention of their governing bodies to the resolution and urged them to introduce flexible procedures to prepare specific programmes for the peoples of the colonial Territories.

K. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations

In its consideration of information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter, the Special Committee reaffirmed that, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory had attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 e with respect to that Territory. In that regard, the Committee requested the administering Powers concerned to transmit or to continue to transmit the information prescribed in Article 73 e, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned, within a maximum period of six months following the expiration of the administrative year in the Territory. Stressing the importance of timely transmission by the administering Powers of adequate information under Article 73 e, in particular in relation to the preparation by the Secretariat of the working papers on the Territories concerned, the Committee requested the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that adequate information was drawn from all available published sources in connection with the preparation of the working papers relating to the Territories concerned.

L. Programme of Activities in Observance of the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

In its resolution 43/45 of 22 November 1988, the General Assembly requested the Special Committee "to prepare and submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, preparatory to the commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration in 1990 and in order to further enhance the process of decolonization, recommendations on appropriate programmes of activities to be undertaken by the United Nations, Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the course of the commemorative year".

Accordingly, the Special Committee prepared and submitted to the General Assembly for consideration a series of recommendations for the commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary, including, inter alia, the holding of three seminars and proposed measures aimed at the widest dissemination of the Declaration; and suggested activities that might be undertaken by Member States, specialized agencies and other organizations at national, regional and international levels. The General Assembly adopted the recommendations as contained in the annex to its resolution 44/100 of 11 December 1989.

M. Other matters

During the year, the Special Committee maintained a close working relationship with other United Nations bodies with common interests, in particular the Special Committee against Apartheid, the United Nations Council for Namibia, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The Special Committee followed closely the work of those bodies as it related to colonial issues and, in its consideration of the various items on its agenda, took into account the relevant decisions that they adopted. The Committee drew the attention of the Security Council to developments relating to certain Territories, such as Namibia and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, as well as to developments concerning military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration.

II. WORK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-FOURTH SESSION

A. General

At its forty-fourth session (1989), the General Assembly, in the disposition of agenda item 18, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples", allocated to the Fourth Committee certain aspects of the question specifically all of the chapters of the report of the Special Committee relating to particular Territories. 20/ The Assembly considered the general aspect of decolonization at its plenary meetings. The Assembly also referred the following agenda items to the Fourth Committee:

- Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations (agenda item 116);

- Activities of foreign economic and other interests which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Namibia and in all other Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa (agenda item 117);

- Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (agenda item 118);

- United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa (agenda item 119);

- Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (agenda item 120).

With regard to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (agenda item 35), the General Assembly decided to consider the item directly in plenary meeting, on the understanding that bodies and individuals having an interest in the question would be heard in the Fourth Committee in conjunction with the consideration of the item in plenary meeting. Subsequently, at its 44th plenary meeting, on 1 November 1989, the General Assembly decided to defer consideration of the item and to include it in the provisional agenda of its forty-fifth session (decision 44/406).

Concerning the question of Namibia (agenda item 36), the General Assembly also decided that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting, on the understanding that the hearings of petitioners representing the organizations concerned would be held in the Fourth Committee. In a letter dated 22 November 1989, the President of the General Assembly informed the Chairman of the Fourth Committee that while agenda item 36 on the question of Namibia remained on the agenda of the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly, it had not at that time been scheduled for consideration in plenary meeting and that he would inform the Chairman if at a later date the item was scheduled for consideration in plenary meeting.

The General Assembly also decided to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fifth session the item entitled "Question of East Timor" (decision 44/402).

B. Issues considered by the Fourth Committee

1. Organization of work

At the outset of the session, the Fourth Committee elected by acclamation the following officers: 21/

Chairman: Mr. Robert F. Van Lierop, Permanent Representative of Vanuatu to the United Nations;

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. A.M. Antony Cave, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Barbados to the United Nations, and Mr. Gorden H. Bristol, First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations;

Rapporteur: Mr. Mohammad Saeed Al-Kindi, First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations.

In organizing its work for the session, the Fourth Committee, in accordance with established procedure and bearing in mind the availability of the relevant documentation, decided to hold two general debates: one relating to "Activities of foreign economic and other interests which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Namibia and in all other Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa" and "Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples"; and the other debate on the remaining agenda items allocated to it by the General Assembly. The Committee agreed that draft resolutions and/or proposals would be considered separately.

In considering these items, the Fourth Committee took into account the related chapters of the Special Committee's report and various reports of the Secretary-General, as well as a number of related communications.

The Fourth Committee held a total of 17 meetings, heard 101 statements in the general debates and held hearings of 30 petitioners. Following its consideration of all the items referred to it by the General Assembly, the Fourth Committee submitted to the Assembly six reports containing its recommendations on specific Territories and other related items. Seventeen of the 21 sets of recommendations contained in these reports were prepared by the Special Committee in accordance with paragraph 31 of General Assembly decision 34/401 of 29 November 1979; 16 recommendations were adopted by the Fourth Committee by consensus.

2. Activities of foreign economic and other interests which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Namibia and in all other Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa

and

Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

In considerating the item relating to the activities of foreign economic and other interests, the Fourth Committee followed the procedure adopted at its previous sessions on the recommendation of the Special Committee, namely, to consider the chapter of the report of the Committee relating to military activities in conjunction with that item. Following its consideration of the item, which took place between 2 and 10 October 1989, 22/ the Fourth Committee approved the draft text of its recommendations prepared by the Special Committee on these two questions.

During the general debate, the Fourth Committee heard 30 statements by representatives and also heard a statement by a petitioner, Mr. J.A. González-González. 23/

Subsequently, at its 80th plenary meeting, on 11 November, the General Assembly adopted the draft resolution relating to the activities of foreign economic and other interests by a recorded vote of 125 to 10, with 17 abstentions (resolution 44/84). At the same meeting, it adopted the draft decision relating to military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers by a recorded vote of 125 to 12, with 13 abstentions (decision 44/425).

The majority of the speakers viewed the activities of foreign economic and other interests in colonial Territories as a way of denying the right of those peoples to dispose of their natural resources in their best interests. They condemned the activities of transnational corporations which, particularly in Namibia, led to the exploitation of cheap labour and depletion of those resources. They also condemned those activities and considered them to be, particularly in southern Africa and Namibia, one of the main obstacles to the implementation of the Declaration. The continued exploitation of the natural and human resources of colonial Territories was a major obstacle to the realization of the legitimate rights of the population to political independence and racial equality.

The majority of the speakers noted that the relevant decisions of the United Nations continued to be disregarded, and therefore urged the adoption of more decisive measures to put an end to foreign investments detrimental to the peoples of colonial Territories, particularly in Namibia, including the adoption of effective sanctions against South Africa in order to isolate the racist régime. A number of delegations considered that South Africa's collusion with certain Western and other countries in the nuclear field constituted a threat to peace in the region.

As regards military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers, the majority of speakers denounced the military and nuclear collaboration of certain countries with South Africa, as such collaboration prolonged the illegal occupation of Namibia and posed a threat to international peace and security. Many delegations also denounced the use of other Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, especially small island Territories, for military purposes and called for the dismantlement of all military bases and installations in those Territories as they obstructed the people from achieving their rights.

3. Specific Territories and other related questions

The Fourth Committee considered the remaining items, namely, specific Territories and other related questions, between 10 and 25 October. 24/ A general debate was held covering all of these items, in which 71 delegations participated. The Committee also heard 27 petitioners, whose names are listed below:

Petitioner	Summary record
New Caledonia	
Mr. Kwame M.A. Somburu, Bay Area Anti-Colonial Committee	A/C.4/44/SR.7
Mr. Glenn Alcalay, National Committee for Radiation Victims	A/C.4/44/SR.7
Miss Marcia McBroom Landess, Peace for Our Children's Sake	A/C.4/44/SR.7
Miss Donna Winslow	A/C.4/44/SR.7

Petitioner	Summary record
New Caledonia (continued)	
Mr. Richard P. Stevens, International Organization Against All Forms of Racial Discrimination	A/C.4/44/SR.8
Mr. Yann Céléné Uregei, FULK	A/C.4/44/SR.8
Mr. Rock Wamytan, FLNKS	A/C.4/44/SR.8
Mr. Stephen Collett, Quaker Office at the United Nations	A/C.4/44/SR.11
Mr. Howard Dodson, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture	A/C.4/44/SR.11
Reverend Jesse Jackson, National Rainbow Coalition	A/C.4/44/SR.11
Mr. Percy Sutton, on behalf of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People	A/C.4/44/SR.11
Senator Dick Ukeiwe, on behalf of the Rassemblement pour la République	A/C.4/44/SR.12
Miss Rosemary Mealy, on behalf of the National Alliance of Third World Journalists	A/C.4/44/SR.12
Congressman Donald M. Payne, on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus	A/C.4/44/SR.12
Reverend Bernice Powell, on behalf of the United Church of Christ and the Commission for Racial Justice	A/C.4/44/SR.12
Mr. Charles Scheiner, National Mobilization for Survival	A/C.4/44/SR.12
Mr. Henry J. Boonzaier, Political Consultative Council	A/C.4/44/SR.13

Petitioner	Summary record
New Caledonia (continued)	
Mr. Herb Boyd, Midwest Alliance for Peace	A/C.4/44/SR.13
Mr. Sean Gervasi, Center for Military Research and Analysis	A/C.4/44/SR.13
Mr. Philip A. Johnson, Lutheran World Federation	A/C.4/44/SR.13
Mr. Richard J. Harvey, on behalf of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers	A/C.4/44/SR.13
New Caledonia and Pitcairn	
Mr. J. A. González-González	A/C.4/44/SR.7
United States Virgin Islands	
Mr. Carlyle Corbin, Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee	A/C.4/44/SR.7
Miss Judith L. Bourne, Save Long Bay Coalition, Inc.	A/C.4/44/SR.8
New Caledonia and the United States Virgin Islands	
Mr. Roger Clark, on behalf of the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute	A/C.4/44/SR.8
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands	
Mr. J. A. González-González	A/C.4/44/SR.8
Western Sahara	
Mr. Mohamed Sidati, Frente POLISARIO	A/C.4/44/SR.9

In the course of the general debate, many delegations underlined their conviction that such factors as territorial size, geographical location, size of population or a lack of resources should not delay the process of self-determination of small island countries. It was the primary responsibility of the administering Powers to promote the political, economic and social progress of the inhabitants of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, to protect their cultural and national heritage and to provide training programmes for their educational advancement.

A number of delegations strongly condemned the continued colonial exploitation and militarization of small island Territories. Many members emphasized that the dispatch of visiting missions was an indispensable means of securing first-hand information on Territories and ascertaining the true aspirations of the peoples thereof concerning their future status; they called for the continued co-operation of the administering Powers concerned in that regard.

The majority of the delegations speaking on the question of Western Sahara supported the joint efforts of the United Nations and OAU aimed at bringing about a peaceful solution to the question. Among the latest positive developments was the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the establishment of the United Nations Technical Commission and the contact between Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO. Although difficulties still remained, they could be overcome if the dialogue already begun was allowed to continue. The mechanism put in place by the Secretary-General could assist the parties to the conflict in discussing various aspects of the referendum. Those parties should display the necessary flexibility and political will to arrive at a peaceful settlement, taking into consideration the desire of the Saharaoui people. Some delegations urged the Fourth Committee to adopt the draft resolution by consensus, thus contributing to the success of the mediation efforts taking place.

In the course of their statements on the question of New Caledonia, many delegations condemned the assassination of two leaders of FLNKS, Jean-Marie Tjiabaou and Yeiwene Yeiwene, and called upon the parties involved to refrain from any acts of violence. They reiterated the strong support of their Governments for an act of self-determination, and expressed the hope that the question would be resolved unanimously. Members of the South Pacific Forum that are also States Members of the United Nations expressed their satisfaction with the positive measures taken by the Government of France, in co-operation with the people of New Caledonia, to promote political, economic and social development. They expressed their continuing support for the Matignon Accords

signed in Paris in 1988 as a framework for New Caledonia's peaceful progress to self-determination. These members affirmed their willingness to contribute to the process of reconciliation and to provide training facilities to the inhabitants of New Caledonia. The representative of France stated that because of the political courage and determination of two political leaders, New Caledonia had been brought back to civility and stability. Under the Matignon Accords, it was agreed that in 1998 the people of New Caledonia would pronounce themselves on the status of their Territory with a referendum on self-determination. The assassination of the two political leaders, while to be deeply regretted, did not undermine the confidence of the people in the agreed course of action. Since the entry into force of the Matignon Accords, new territorial institutions were in place: three provinces had been given wide autonomy and elected Assemblies on the basis of universal suffrage; a large number of legislative and statutory measures had been adopted; and the state of implementation of the agreements was being monitored on a regular basis.

In their statements, many delegations made reference to the independence plan for Namibia contained in Security Council resolution 435 (1978). They called upon South Africa to abide strictly by Council resolution 435 (1978) and to create conditions for free and fair elections in Namibia. Delegations commended the Secretary-General for his persistent efforts in bringing the implementation process to a successful conclusion. In the course of their statements, many petitioners welcomed the developments leading to an independent Namibia.

Many delegations stressed the importance of the role played by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations in the struggle against colonialism and apartheid. Although the specialized agencies had made a significant contribution to the process of decolonization by providing assistance to colonial peoples and their national liberation movements, as well as to refugees, much more remained to be done, especially with regard to Namibia. The delegations called upon those specialized agencies that had not yet done so to include in the agenda of the regular sessions of their governing bodies an item dealing specifically with the review of the implementation of the Declaration. A number of speakers urged IMF and the World Bank to sever relations with South Africa and stated that decisive action must be taken to isolate the South African régime totally.

A number of delegations stressed the importance of the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa and appealed to all States, institutions, organizations and

individuals to pledge increased financial support for the programme for southern Africa. They requested Member States to provide or continue to provide the inhabitants of Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories with financial assistance and scholarships, as well as training facilities for both secondary and post-secondary education.

Subsequently, on 11 December 1989, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee, the General Assembly adopted the following recommendations and decisions in relation to these items:

Resolution	Item	Voting
44/83	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations	150-0-3
44/84	Activities of foreign economic and other interests which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Namibia and in all other Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa	125-10-17
44/85	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	142-2-10
44/86	United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa	Without objection

Resolution	Item	Voting
44/87	Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	Without objection
44/88	Question of Western Sahara	Without objection
44/89	Question of New Caledonia	Without objection
44/90	Question of Tokelau	Without objection
44/91	Question of the Cayman Islands	Without objection
44/92	Question of Bermuda	Without objection
44/93	Question of the Turks and Caicos Islands	Without objection
44/94	Question of Anguilla	Without objection
44/95	Question of the British Virgin Islands	Without objection
44/96	Question of Montserrat	Without objection
44/97	Question of American Samoa	Without objection
44/98	Question of Guam	Without objection
44/99	Question of the United States Virgin Islands	Without objection

Decision	Item	Voting
44/425	Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	125-12-13
44/426	Question of Gibraltar	Without objection
44/427	Question of Pitcairn	Without objection
44/428	Question of St. Helena	122-2-27

With regard to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Fourth Committee, on the proposal of the Chairman based on his consultations with the Chairman of the Special Committee and with a number of delegations concerned, decided not to take any action at that stage on a draft resolution submitted by the Special Committee on the item.

With the exception of General Assembly resolutions 44/86 to 44/88 and decision 44/426, all other resolutions and decisions (summaries of which are given in sect. I) were prepared by the Special Committee in accordance with decision 34/401 on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly.

By its resolution 44/86, the General Assembly appealed to all States, institutions, organizations and individuals to offer greater financial and other support to the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa in order to secure its continuation and steady expansion.

In respect of its resolution 44/87 relating to offers of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories, the General Assembly invited all States to make or continue to make generous offers of study and training facilities to inhabitants of Territories that had not yet attained self-government or independence and to provide travel funds to prospective students. It urged the administering Powers to take effective measures to ensure the widespread and continuous dissemination of information relating to offers of study and training facilities.

By its resolution 44/88, the General Assembly reaffirmed that the question of Western Sahara was a question of decolonization which remained to be completed on the basis of the exercise by the people of Western Sahara of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence; stressed the importance of the agreement in principle given on 30 August 1988 by the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO to the joint proposals of the current Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU and the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to the holding of a referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, organized and supervised by the United Nations in co-operation with OAU; welcomed the efforts of the current Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to promote a just and definitive solution of the question of Western Sahara, in

accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/50; welcomed the talks at Marrakech between King Hassan II of Morocco and a high-level delegation from the Frente POLISARIO, and endorsed the hope of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the current Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU that there would be further meetings of that nature to improve the prospects for the success of the peace process; expressed its conviction that the continuation of direct dialogue between the two parties to the conflict could contribute to the completion of the joint good offices process of the current Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to the restoration of peace in Western Sahara and to stability and security in the whole region; and appealed once again to the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO to display the co-operation and the political goodwill necessary for the success of the joint good offices process of the current Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

By its consensus on the question of Gibraltar (decision 43/411 of 22 November 1988), the General Assembly took note that the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Governments of Spain and the United Kingdom had met at Madrid on 5 and 6 December 1985, in London on 13 and 14 January 1987, at Madrid on 27 and 28 November 1987 and in London on 2 December 1987. The meetings were part of the negotiating process provided for in the Brussels declaration. 25/ The Assembly urged the parties to continue those negotiations with the object of reaching a definitive solution to the problem of Gibraltar.

C. Issues considered in plenary meeting

Following an introductory statement by the Chairman of the Special Committee concerning the work of the Committee for the year, 20 delegations participated in the general debate on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (agenda item 18). They pointed out that the Declaration contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) had helped to change the fate of many colonial countries by providing a basis for the struggle of oppressed peoples for their liberation.

Many representatives believed that despite these accomplishments, of which the international community could be proud, the objectives of the Declaration had not been fully met and the process of decolonization had not been completed. A great deal remained to be done before colonialism, racism and apartheid in all its forms and manifestations could finally be eliminated.

With the independence process under way in Namibia, the United Nations had demonstrated its capabilities for negotiated political settlements of conflicts, including the complex issue of colonialism. It showed that such solutions were possible if and when there was the requisite political resolve, a readiness for compromise and due respect for the legitimate interests of all sides involved. The future of the new State of Namibia, its security and stability would depend to a great extent on the course of action to be taken by the Government of South Africa in respect of the eradication of the system of apartheid. Members stressed that it was important for the international community to continue to bring pressure to bear on the South African régime to dismantle its apartheid régime.

In the course of their statements, representatives of delegations made reference to the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration and the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and they stressed the importance of the renewed efforts on the part of the international community to assist in facilitating the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration.

Many delegations paid tribute to the Special Committee for its dedicated endeavours to promote the interests of the peoples of Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories and to uphold their inalienable right to self-determination and independence. They pointed out that for the small Territories, because of their special features and environment, special solutions might be required in the implementation of the principles relating to decolonization. The people in each Territory must determine freely, however, and from a well-informed standpoint, what was in their own best interests, particularly with regard to their future political status. It was the responsibility of the administering Powers to facilitate such unfettered expression of their wishes. A number of speakers stated that the obstacles impeding the process of decolonization were the maintenance of military bases and the military arrangements of the colonial Powers in the Territories. Despite the repeated calls by the international community, it was evident from the report of the Special Committee that the colonial Powers had not complied with these appeals. The speakers expressed the view that the military bases and installations constituted a threat to regional and international security.

Delegations considered that colonialism, in whatever form, was a contradiction to the principles set out in the Charter and was a major obstacle to the success of the many efforts undertaken by the United Nations to bring about freedom, justice and equality. The speedy implementation of the resolutions and decisions adopted

by the United Nations designed to eliminate the remaining vestiges of colonialism would no doubt speed up the process of decolonization and lead to the realization of the legitimate aspirations of the people still living under colonial domination.

On 11 December, the General Assembly adopted a draft resolution submitted to it by the Special Committee on the Programme of Activities in Observance of the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Declaration (resolution 44/100, adopted by 137 votes to 2, with 14 abstentions). In doing so, the Assembly approved the activities proposed in the annex to the draft resolution.

On the same day, the General Assembly adopted a 38-Power draft resolution on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by which, among other things, it renewed the mandate of the Special Committee in relation to the implementation of the Declaration with respect to the remaining colonial Territories (resolution 44/101, adopted by 142 votes to 2, with 8 abstentions). Also on 11 December, the General Assembly adopted, by 143 votes to 2, with 7 abstentions, a 36-Power draft resolution concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization (resolution 44/102), in which it called for a series of action-oriented programmes.

At the same meeting, the General Assembly also adopted, by 130 votes to none, with 22 abstentions, a draft decision by which it took note of the interim report of the Secretary-General on the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism 26/ and recommended that the Secretary-General should request those States and organizations of the United Nations system that had not yet done so to submit suggestions on a proposed action plan (decision 44/429).

Notes

1/ A/AC.109/975 and Add.1, A/AC.109/976-978, A/AC.109/979 and Add.1, A/AC.109/980, A/AC.109/982-990, A/AC.109/992-998, A/AC.109/999/Rev.1, A/AC.109/1000, A/AC.109/1003, A/AC.109/1004, A/AC.109/1007 and Corr.1, A/AC.109/L.1705 and A/AC.109/L.1707.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/44/23), chap. IV, para. 11.

3/ Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-fourth Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1989, documents S/20412 and Add.1 and 2.

4/ Ibid., document S/20457.

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/44/23), chap. IX, addendum, annex.

6/ Ibid., Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 24 (A/35/24), vol. I, annex II.

7/ Ibid., Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/44/23), chap. X, para. 23.

8/ Ibid., chap. XI, para. 14.

9/ Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-third Year, Special Supplement No. 1 (S/20168), para. 120.

10/ A/AC.109/L.1703.

11/ A/AC.109/L.1436, A/AC.109/L.1519, A/AC.109/L.1571, A/AC.109/L.1598, A/AC.109/L.1633 and A/AC.109/L.1676.

12/ A/AC.109/L.1572 and Corr.1 and 2.

13/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/44/23), chap. I, para. 48.

14/ Ibid., chap. V, para. 9.

15/ Ibid., chap. VI, para. 9.

16/ A/44/297 and Add.1 and 2.

17/ A/AC.109/L.1705 and E/1989/112.

18/ A/AC.109/L.1686 and Add.1.

19/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/44/23), chap. VII, para. 14.

20/ Ibid., Supplement No. 23 (A/44/23).

21/ See A/C.4/44/SR.1 and 2.

22/ See A/C.4/44/SR.2-6.

23/ See A/C.4/44/SR.4.

24/ See A/C.4/44/SR.5 and A/C.4/44/SR.7-16.

25/ A/39/732, annex.

26/ A/44/800.